

EDUCATION, BUSINESS, CIVIL RIGHTS, RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND UNION LEADERS SUPPORT THE TEACH ACT

"The TEACH Act...is the boldest, most serious, and most comprehensive federal legislation on teacher quality that I have seen to date...If we are to honestly answer the challenge posed by outsourcing of American jobs and give our future workforce the edge to compete with increasingly advanced economies in Asia and elsewhere, we have no choice but to apply new ideas and resources to make teaching a top tier profession for the best and brightest Americans...Support for the TEACH Act should not break on partisan lines."

- Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., Former Chairman, IBM, Chairman, The Teaching Commission

"The TEACH Act is an important step in the right direction in addressing teacher quality and teacher support issues in low-income communities. The Act will attract outstanding individuals with strong academic backgrounds and will also make it more financially feasible to teach in these communities...We are especially enthusiastic about provisions that focus on strong academic backgrounds for educators...and the provisions that focus on building mentor relationships...we thank you for your leadership."

- Wendy Kopp, President and Founder, Teach for America

"As other nations increasingly focus on innovations in science, technology, engineering and math, the United States cannot afford to fall behind. It is critically important to improve elementary and secondary math and science teaching in order to raise student achievement in these subjects, and prepare and motivate young people to enter these fields. Congressman Miller has been a consistent champion for raising U.S. student achievement, and the focus on improving math and science teacher quality in this initiative deserves bipartisan support."

-John J. Castellani, President, Business Roundtable

"The TEACH Act of 2005 takes a bold step toward reducing teacher attrition and improving teaching by helping states and school districts better train, recruit, and retain quality teachers for the neediest students. The TEACH Act could not come at a more important time...An investment like this pays for itself -- sharply reducing the cost of teacher turnover, boosting academic performance, and providing students the opportunity to earn higher wages that lead to greater tax revenue. The Alliance commends Congressman Miller for his introduction of this bill and looks forward to working with Congress to help ensure that federal policies such as these can become a reality."

- Former Governor Bob Wise, President, the Alliance for Excellent Education

"This is a bold initiative that addresses key challenges...This bill embraces two important insights -- great classrooms are led by excellent teachers and great schools are led by effective principals... This hard-hitting bill addresses a variety of factors that stand in the way of high-quality teaching and nation-wide academic achievement... The TEACH Act...supports the work of educators across the country, resulting in an education system that will allow all students to reach their highest potential in the classroom and in life."

- Jonathan Schnur, CEO, New Leaders for New Schools

"The policies proposed by Congressman Miller could change the dynamic in our struggling schools... While others bemoan the problem of attracting our best teachers to teach in our hardest-to-staff schools, George Miller is rolling up his sleeves and getting to work. This proposal changes the conversation from 'we can't' to 'here's how we can.'"

-Kati Haycock, Director, Education Trust

"We are pleased that Rep. Miller and other Members of Congress have introduced legislation to address the challenge of recruiting, developing, motivating and retaining excellent teachers for America's neediest classrooms. This legislation recognizes the key factors in ensuring that every child has a high-quality teacher in every classroom. These include strong, school-based professional development; the ability for teachers to move up a career ladder with more responsibility and more pay; a fair and clear evaluation system... we must make teacher quality, particularly in high-need schools, a top education priority. This challenge is one of the most critical facing the nation."

-Lewis C. Solomon, President, Teacher Advancement Program Foundation

"We know that every child deserves a high-quality teacher in his or her classroom, but poor working conditions, low salary and lack of preparation and support leads to high turnover in our schools... This bill address these concerns with common sense incentives for teachers to stay in the classroom... the NEA would like to commend Congressman Miller and Senator Kennedy for their leadership on this important piece of legislation."

-Reg Weaver, President, National Education Association

"This important piece of federal legislation contains many of the fundamental components that are crucial to systemic, comprehensive education reform including new forms of evaluation and compensation for teachers and administrators, support for data-driven decision making, more fluid career opportunities, increased professional development, mentors and coaches for new educators and peer review and remediation... We also strongly support the provisions of the TEACH Act that address the critical lack of well trained and highly qualified teachers."

-Ted Hirshberg, Executive Director, Operation Public Education

"The Children's Defense Fund strongly supports this legislation. By increasing the supply of outstanding teachers, ensuring all children have teachers with knowledge of their subject area, and helping schools to attract and retain the best teachers and principals, this Act will significantly improve achievement for all children. Investments like this are necessary if we are truly address the needs of our disadvantaged youth."

-Marian Wright Edelman, CEO and Founder, Children's Defense Fund

"Commendably, this bill tackles a wide range of issues pertaining to the teacher quality challenge with thoughtful approaches that include strong accountability measures, responsible innovation, and appropriate roles for federal involvement in this critical issue. The bill keeps in focus what is in the best interest of school children by seeding important reforms that will help make teaching a more attractive and satisfying choice of professions."

-Kate Walsh, President, National Council on Teacher Quality

"...[We] commend you on the introduction of the TEACH Act... In today's competitive marketplace it is increasingly difficult to attract and retain the best teachers. By offering innovative solutions to help achieve the goal of having all classrooms led by excellent teachers, your legislation addresses this challenge."

- Kristor Cowan, Director, AFT Legislation Department

"This legislation would provide teachers with the training and support needed to provide all U.S. students with high-quality instructional services, and would particularly help improve the educational status of Hispanic students. The TEACH Act would ensure that our nation's teachers receive the training and support they need to provide high-quality instructional services to all students, including Hispanics and ELLs. NCLR strongly supports the TEACH Act and urges its adoption by the House of Representatives."

-Janet Murguia, President and CEO, National Council of La Raza